

Message Text

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ACTION STR-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2814

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LIMDIS

PASS STR AMBASSADORS STRAUSS AND WOLFF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA, US

SUBJECT: KYODO REPORT ON STRAUSS KOMEITO MEETING

1. THE FOLLOWING WAS CARRIED ON THE KYODO WIRE DATELINED
WASHINGTON NOV. 16.

2. "WASHINGTON NOV. 16 KYODO--ROBERT STRAUSS, PRESIDENT
JIMMY CARTER'S SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WARNED WEDNES-
DAY THAT JAPAN-U.S. RELATIONS WOULD REACH THE "BURSTING
POINT" SOONER OR LATER, UNLESS JAPAN TAKES "SIGNIFICANT"
STEPS FOR CORRECTION OF THE CURRENT BILATERAL TRADE IM-
BALANCE."

3. "STRAUSS SOUNDED THE WARNING WHEN HE AND HIS DEPUTY
ALAN WOLFF MET WITH A VISITING DELEGATION OF JAPAN'S
KOMEITO, LED BY SECRETARY GENERAL JUNYA YANO."

4. "HE TOLD DELEGATION THAT JAPAN-U.S. RELATIONS
WOULD REACH THE BURSTING POINT IF JAPAN CONTINUES TO
ENJOY A HUGE SURPLUS FOR THREE, SIX OR NINE MONTHS TO
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COME IN ITS TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES."

5. "STRAUSS URGED THE DELEGATION TO TELL THE JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT TO TAKE "SIGNIFICANT" STEPS TO CORRECT THE
TRADE IMBALANCE AND AMEND ITS PRESENT ECONOMIC POLICY,
WHEN IT RETURNED HOME."

6. "STRAUSS IS BELIEVED TO HAVE MADE THE REMARKS ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE KOMEITO DELEGATION WOULD REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING TO PRIME MINISTER TAKEO FUKUDA AFTER ITS RETURN TO TOKYO, OBSERVERS SAID."

7. "THEY ALSO SAID HE WAS APPARENTLY AWARE OF THE NEED TO SHOW A TOUGH ATTITUDE TO JAPAN IN CONNECTION WITH JAPAN-U.S. TRADE TALKS TO BE HELD IN TOKYO FRIDAY AND SATURDAY BETWEEN A GROUP OF U.S. OFFICIALS, INCLUDING RICHARD RIVERS, STRAUSS'S GENERAL COUNSEL AT THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, AND JAPANESE OFFICIALS."

8. "THE TALKS ARE EXPECTED TO CENTER ON MEASURES JAPAN IS PREPARED TO TAKE FOR THE CORRECTION OF THE JAPAN-U.S. TRADE IMBALANCE AND FOR REDUCTION OF ITS OVERALL BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SURPLUS."

9. "STRAUSS ALSO TOLD THE KOMEITO DELEGATION THAT HE HAS BEEN DOING HIS BEST TO CURB GROWING PROTECTION-IST MOVES IN THE U.S. CONGRESS. BUT, HE ADDED, THE TIME IS RUNNING SHORT QUICKLY, IMPLYING IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE SUCH EFFORTS."

10. "CONCERNING HIS PLANNED VISIT TO TOKYO, HE SAID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE WOULD RATHER NOT GO TO JAPAN IF THE VISIT PRODUCES ONLY LITTLE EFFECT."

11. "STRAUSS THUS INDICATED HE WOULD NOT MAKE THE PLANNED VISIT TO JAPAN, UNLESS THE JAPAN-U.S. TRADE TALKS ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY PRODUCE THE RESULTS SATISFACTORY TO THE U.S. SIDE."

12. "DEPUTY SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE WOLFF THEN EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH A SET OF MEASURES JAPAN REPORTEDLY PLANS TO TAKE FOR REDUCING ITS HIGH BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BY \$3 BILLION THROUGH EMERGENCY IMPORTS OF GOODS."

13. "EVEN IF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ACTUALLY ENFORCES THE MEASURES TO DECREASE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SURPLUS BY \$3 BILLION, THE UNITED STATES WOULD STILL REGISTER A TRADE DEFICIT OF \$10 BILLION NEXT YEAR, HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING."

14. "IN THIS CONNECTION, WOLFF PRESENTED THREE PROPOSALS FOR THE CORRECTION OF THE JAPAN-U.S.

TRADE IMBALANCE--THE CLARIFICATION OF THE TARGET
DATE FOR TURNING JAPAN'S CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE
INTO DEFICITS, EXPANSION OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS
AND A SPECIAL MEASURE TO INCREASE JAPAN'S IMPORTS
OF SPECIFIC ITEMS ON TOP OF ORDINARY TRADE ITEMS."

15. "HE ALSO SAID IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT TO LOWER TRADE AND TARIFF BARRIERS."
MANSFIELD

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